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there had, however, never been very many. Our bear of the year was living on berries. . . . Ptarmigan were all but wanting, old birds and young. It is fair to suppose that in previous years they were let alone by their natural enemies in the presence of the superabundant mouse supply, and were enabled to increase to their unusual number in 1905. . . . For the first time we heard the wolves nights, a far, high-pitched howl—their hunting cry. I suppose it is for the ears of the caribou. Uneasy, they move, a track is left for the wolf to find and sooner or later the chase is on. . . . Once the wolves found themselves upon the hard times of early 1906 they may have sought the caribou and started them to move. They certainly did move, as the twelve or fifteen hundred carcasses [killed by the Indians for winter use] at Mistinipi that year went to show.

"The bearing of the mouse situation on the human interests of the region is easy to see. It affected all the game, food game and fur. The abundance of mice tended to build up the ptarmigan, which are of vital importance in the winter living of the Indians through the whole forested area to the Gulf. Likewise it built up the caribou herd by providing easier game than they for the wolves. The departure of the mice did the reverse, reducing the deer and ptarmigan, but it may have brought the deer migration as suggested. . . . Nor were the shore people by any means untouched. All their land game came and went, was plenty or wanting, shy or easily taken, according to the supply of mice. London and St. Petersburg, easily, were affected through their great fur trade." These and other relations in the interdependence of animals are forcefully suggested.

Under the heading "Creature Colorations" are gathered a number of keen observations as to the adaptive significance of the color pattern of certain northern species, including the wolverene, the arctic and varying hares, weasels and ptarmigan. These and numerous other items told in passing constitute all together a valuable contribution to the natural history of the North.

The book itself is attractive to the eye and hand; its story of travel, hardship, and discovery is well and simply told, intimate yet restrained. The spirit of out-doors runs through it all; one comes regretfully to the last page.

—*Glover M. Allen.*

Thorburn, Archibald. *BRITISH MAMMALS.* Longmans, Green, and Co., London. 4 to, Vol. 1, pp. i-viii, 1-84; col. pl. 1-25, line cuts in text, 8. 1920. Vol. 2, pp. i-vii, pp. 1-108; col. pl. 26-50, line cuts in text, 8. 1921.

The purpose of this splendid work as set forth in the preface "has been to provide pictures in colour of all those animals classed as mammals which inhabit or visit our islands." The author includes in this scope the Cetacea, twenty forms in number, making the treatment very comprehensive.

To quote again from the preface: "Planned as a companion to the volumes on 'British Birds' and 'A Naturalist's Sketch Book,' recently published, it gives a series of reproductions from water-colour drawings of the seventy species which make up the list, and in addition to these are shown various subspecies or closely allied forms, among others some of the local races of mice which have attracted the attention of naturalists during recent years." "A short description of the animals represented has been included, giving the general distribution, colour, measurements, and some notes on the habits of the various species, . . ."

The two volumes comprise a de luxe edition of beautiful and artistic colour plates with accompanying text, the treatment being designed more for the layman than for the systematic worker. Scientific names are given for all of the groups, from the order to the subspecies, although the trinomial is seldom employed, while the common name is given the emphasis. The characters of each species, brought out in the text, are generally few and of such a nature as to be most readily discerned by the layman.

The first volume takes up the Chiroptera and deals with twelve species, all of which are figured in the coloured plates. The greater horse-shoe bat is given some four pages of text, which serve as a preparation for the treatment of the order, but most of the other species are given less space. Accounts of habits, food and distribution make up the bulk of the text.

The order Insectivora includes only five species, the hedgehog, mole, and three species of shrews. All five are portrayed in colour with a text treatment similar to that given to the bats. Fifteen species are taken up in the Carnivora, beginning with the wild cat and fox, including the walrus and six species of seals and concluding with the Mustelidæ, the otter, badger, pine martin, polecat, stoat and weasel. Fourteen plates are given to this order and among these plates are some of the most effective of the two volumes. The text treatment seldom runs up to three pages, even the fox being allotted only a scant two and a half pages, while some of the seals are dismissed with a page.

The first volume closes with two species of the Rodentia, the common squirrel and the common dormouse, each being given a plate. In the second volume this order is completed, with a total of nineteen species and in addition to the two plates of rodents in the first volume, eleven more are devoted to the order in this volume. Incidentally the author uses the blanket name *Mus* to cover nine of the small rodents, taking under this genus the harvest mouse, wood mouse, common mouse and brown rat. The text accompaniment varies from three and a half pages for the harvest mouse and the common hare to a scant page for the Orkney vole. The Ruminantia, with four species claim five plates and twenty pages of text.

The second volume takes up the last order, the Cetacea, with twenty-one species, nine plates and forty-six pages of text. The treatment of the order begins with four pages of remarks on the order in general, dealing with points of structure, measurements, food habits, classification, etc. The volume concludes with a few paragraphs upon mammals which have become extinct in the British Islands within historic times, the wolf, brown bear, beaver, reindeer and wild boar. An appendix gives additional data on the validity of the record of the occurrence of the walrus in the British mammalia. An index of four pages gives references under both scientific and common names.

The volumes are very well gotten up, the paper is very heavy and the type large, the plates are upon the highest quality stock and in the arrangement throughout the artistic influence of the author is readily apparent. The text is largely compilation from other authors with no attempt at the introduction of original matter, its sole function apparently being to serve as the medium for a satisfactory interpretation of the author's pleasing portrayals.

—H. E. Anthony.